





WHAT THE CONVENTION DID FOR US.

The Convention that was called to

propose amendments to the Constitu-

tion met and adjourned after a session

of thirty working days. Numbered

among the things of the past, it is now

forevermore powerless both for good

and for evil. Its work is done and

the fruit of its labors may be summed

up in the brief but comprehensive de-

claration that at a comparatively small

cost it has put in the hands of the peo-

ple of North Carolina the power need-

ful to govern themselves.

If the people desire to regain the

power to shape and fashion their gov-

ernment according to their own will

and pleasure, all they have to do is

to go to the polls in November next

and vote in favor of the ratification of

the amendments. And this with all it

implies, that is to say, the people's rule

and an economical expenditure of their

money, is the work of the Convention

of 1875.

The apprehensions of friends favor-

able to constitutional reform, but fear-

ful lest the movement that led to the

Convention might be a hazardous po-

litical experiment and the slanders of

enemies hostile to any change that

promised to free the people from the

burden of the cast-iron Canby Consti-

tution, have alike proved groundless.

The question now is, not whether the

Convention ought to have been trusted

to change the Constitution, but whether

the people of North Carolina can be

trusted with the government of North

Carolina.

It was the purpose of the Canby

Constitution to take from the people

the power to govern themselves. It is

the purpose of the proposed amend-

ments to restore to them that power,

and in the amplest manner. It was

the purpose, we repeat, of the Con-

vention that framed the Constitu-

tion to fasten upon the people of North

Carolina a government that, for years

to come, they would be unable to

change, and so has said one of the

most influential as well as one of the

most unworthy members of that Con-

vention. How successfully that pur-

pose was carried out is shown by the

fact that to-day after eight years of

persistent effort, we have still to undo

their infamous work, have still before

us the task of freeing the people from

the power of the officeholders.

But we are now, thanks to the Con-

vention of 1875 no longer helpless. If the

Canby Constitution remains unchang-

ed it will be because the people of

North Carolina declare at the polls

that they desire it to remain unchang-

ed. If it be not changed now no man

in North Carolina can say that its

provisions do not represent the will and

the wish of the people of North Car-

olina.

Which is the better for our State,

the cast-iron Canby Constitution and

the rule of officeholders, or the amend-

ments and the rule of the

people? Let the people speak out.

The power to do so at the ballot box

is placed in their hands by the pro-

posed amendments. They must speak

out now or hereafter hold their peace.

GOOD FOR ROBESON!

The following card and the remarks

thereto appended have been sent to

us for publication. It will be seen

that independent candidacy meets with

little favor in gallant old Robeson.

Now is the time to crush out all dis-

organizers. Independent candidates is

but another name for Radical candi-

dature. Stand by the nominees!

Editor Journal:

DEAR SIR:—Please publish the fol-

lowing card in your very able and in-

fluential paper, and oblige the cause

of conservatism in Robeson county:

A CARD.—On the 26th of August

last, I was nominated by the Republi-

can County Convention as a candidate

for County Commissioner. This nomi-

nation was made without my consent

and against my will. Heaven forbid

that I should ever be found in the Rad-

ical ranks. I now say to that party,

if you elect me I will not serve. Tilden,

Vance, and the Constitutional

Amendments will, of course, receive

my most hearty support.

JOHN MCNAB.

Sept. 23, 1876.

REMARKS.

The action of the ring leaders of the

Radical party in this county shows not

only the straits in which the party are

now in, but it shows the way in which

they degrade the good people of this

county. Of course they can nominate

THE RADICAL NOTION FOR CONGRESS IN OUR DISTRICT.

We scarcely know how to treat the

nomination of W. P. Canby as the

Radical candidate for Congress in this

District. It is difficult to see what

there is in it beyond a desire to pay a

compliment and yet it is difficult to

believe for this purpose only the Radical

party would have taken the trouble to

gather together the negroes of the

District at Magnolia and in addition

bring to the city of Wilmington their

biggest guns, small though they were,

Settle, Young, Dockery, Watts and the

rest, to be fired off at the "ratification."

But so they did and Settle and Young

one or both, if we mistake not, spoke of

Canby as the "noble candidate," an

eloquent orator, as well, it might be

thought he could do some good by mak-

ing an energetic canvass of the district

and stirring up the negroes. But Can-

by is no orator, as other men have

been, a fact that if any proof were

needed, his few brief remarks at the

Ratification meeting plainly showed.

But even if he was a man of magic elo-

quence and great personal populari-

ty and unblemished record, he could

not expect to overcome our majority.

And the district is as little likely to be

carried by foul means as by fair; it

cannot be bought by any amount of

money that may be brought into it,

even if Mr. Canby had an unlimited

amount at his command. The idea

that any Radical could be elected in

the district is a vain one, as Neill

McKoy, Canby's predecessor, will

testify. Judge Russell,

who might say a few words to throw

some light on the subject, and both

these men could make speeches. The

prospect that Canby who cannot speak

and who in addition, has as vulnera-

ble a record, convenient for ventilation,

as any Radical in the District, can over-

come our majority is so absurd and

impossible that we are driven to look

for other motives for his candidacy

than an expectation of being elected.

The idea of the Democratic party,

under Waddell as a leader, going regu-

larly to work to make a formal con-

vention for the District with the Radical

party under Canby as a leader, is about

like shooting birds with buckshot.

The waste of ammunition would be

dreadful. Neill McKoy was small

enough, poor fellow, but Canby!

Good Gracious!

It times now were like they were in

1872 we think we might understand

the thing, but money is not as plenti-

ful now as heretofore. The Radical

party has to be more cautious in ap-







